



HR1238

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Board of Education for Harvey Public Schools District 152 has adopted the policy of naming its schools, whenever practicable, after worthy and well-known poets; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Angelou, born Marguerite Johnson on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, learned early in life the lessons of respect, pride, loyalty, and humanitarianism, attributes that she continued to demonstrate throughout her life; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Angelou was an accomplished author, poet, actress, singer, producer, educator, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights activist; nurtured by discipline and hard work, she successfully found recognition from her colleagues as well as national acclaim; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Angelou served on 2 presidential committees and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000 and the Lincoln Medal in 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Angelou received the highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President Barack Obama in 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Maya Angelou was presented the Literary Arts Award

1 by First Lady Michelle Obama at the BET Honors ceremony in
2 Washington, D.C. in 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou received over 50 honorary degrees;
4 she also served as a Reynolds Professor of American Studies at
5 Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and

6 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou fashioned her life around many of the
7 values that Harvey Public Schools District 152 incorporated
8 into its Mission Statement, including academic excellence,
9 leadership, skillful decision-making, respect for others and
10 self, giving your best effort, honesty, personal empowerment,
11 cultural appreciation, and joy of learning; and

12 WHEREAS, The Maya Angelou Elementary School in Harvey is
13 the only school named after Maya Angelou in the State of
14 Illinois; the school will educate children with the skills they
15 need to face the future, as well as the values that were so
16 intrinsic in this fiercely proud and humble woman; and

17 WHEREAS, In her presence on September 22, 1995, Maya
18 Angelou Elementary School was dedicated in her name; and

19 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou passed away on May 28, 2014 at her
20 home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we proudly rededicate the Maya Angelou Elementary School in
4 Harvey in honor of Maya Angelou and her legacy; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Harvey Public Schools District 152.